

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW AUSTRALIAN
RHOPALOCERA.

BY E. MEYRICK, B.A., F.E.S.

LYCAENIDAE.

POLYOMMATUS, Latr.

I use this name in the sense in which it is employed by Staudinger in his Catalogue, to denote the genus formerly known as *Chrysophanus*, distinguished from *Lycaena* by the smooth eyes (not hairy); there are several blue Australian species which have been confounded with *Lycaena*.

Pol. uranites, n. sp.

♂♀. 26-28 mm. Head orange, margins more or less grey, orbital rims white. Palpi white, towards apex dark fuscous. Antennæ black, annulated with white. Thorax and abdomen grey. Forewings with costa almost straight, hind margin in ♂ almost straight, little oblique, in ♀ rounded towards anal angle; in ♂ brilliant light brassy-blue, in ♀ purple-blue; a narrow costal and broad hindmarginal dark fuscous border, latter occupying nearly half wing on costa, and gradually diminishing to anal angle; in ♀ an irregular orange-reddish streak almost along hindmargin: cilia white, barred with dark fuscous, basal third dark fuscous. Hindwings with hindmargin somewhat waved, rounded more strongly in ♀; colour and markings as in forewings, but hindmarginal border only descending to middle of hindmargin; a

reddish-orange almost marginal streak, tending to form spots, along hindmargin in both sexes. Forewings beneath bright yellow-ochreous, suffused with reddish-orange between posterior markings; upper half with seven irregular trapezoidal pale bluish-golden spots arranged in four transverse series (1, 1, 2, 3), laterally black-margined; dorsal third grey, except a light orange spot before middle; three roundish blackish spots before hindmargin on lower half. Hindwings beneath bright yellow-ochreous, somewhat spotted with reddish-orange between markings; three strongly curved series of moderate irregular trapezoidal more or less confluent pale bluish-golden spots, first two interrupted near costa.

Geraldton, West Australia, in October and November; common. This is one of the finest species of the genus.

Pol. cyanites, n. sp.

♂. 25-29 mm. Differs from *P. erinus* (which is a true *Polyommatus*, and not a *Lycæna*,) only in the colour of uppersurface of wings; these are rather deep blue, very slightly purplish-tinged; forewings with a rather narrow blackish costal border, and broad blackish hindmarginal border, occupying half wing on costa, semi-circularly excavated on middle third, attenuated to point at anal angle; hindwings with a rather narrow blackish border along costa and round apex, and a black hindmarginal line forming small triangular spots between veins on upper half.

Geraldton, West Australia; two specimens in November. Closely allied to *P. erinus*, but quite distinct.

HESPERIADAE.

TELESTO, Boisd.

Tel. crypsargyra, n. sp.

♂♀. 26-29 mm. Head black, spotted with pale yellow. Palpi pale yellow, apex black. Antennæ black, beneath spotted with pale yellow. Thorax with mixed black and pale yellow hairs. Abdomen black, segmental margins pale yellow. Forewings with costa nearly straight, hindmargin rounded, slightly oblique; dark fuscous; some yellowish hairs towards base; spots light ochreous-yellowish, thinly scaled; one in middle of disc, moderate, irregular; three very small, subconfluent, in transverse row beneath costa at $\frac{3}{4}$; one small, subquadrate, between veins 3 and 4 at base, beneath which is in ♂ a minute dot, in ♀ a rather larger adjacent similar spot; in ♂ a straight dull blackish streak from disc beyond middle to $\frac{2}{3}$ of inner margin; in ♀ a very small yellow spot near inner margin before middle, and a larger one at $\frac{2}{3}$; cilia dark fuscous, terminal half sometimes obscurely spotted with pale yellowish. Hindwings with hindmargin rounded; blackish-fuscous; a moderate transverse fascia-like orange-yellow blotch in middle of disc, narrowed and less defined beneath, not nearly reaching costa or inner margin; cilia blackish, unevenly barred with yellow. Forewings beneath dark fuscous; spots as above, with a yellowish suffusion beneath costa on basal half, a small yellow spot on costa at $\frac{4}{5}$, a yellow bar before hindmargin from costa to vein 4, and an interrupted yellow hindmarginal line. Hindwings beneath dark fuscous, more or less ferruginous-tinged; veins partially lined with yellowish; an oblique pale yellowish blotch from costa near base; ten snow-white spots; first small, beneath middle of costa; second longitudinal-linear, in disc before middle; third irregular wedge-shaped, beneath disc before middle; fourth moderately large, trapezoidal, in middle of disc;

fifth suboval, beneath costa before apex ; remaining five rather small, forming a submarginal series, two upper smallest and sometimes confluent.

Blackheath (3,500 feet), New South Wales ; locally common, in November and February. One of the handsomest and most distinct species of the genus, but I have never met with it elsewhere, nor seen it in other collections.

Tel. chaostola, n. sp.

♂. 34 mm. Head, palpi, thorax, and abdomen fuscous-grey ; palpi becoming whitish beneath, hairs of abdomen yellowish-tinged. Antennæ black, annulated with white. Forewings with costa nearly straight, hindmargin rounded, somewhat oblique ; dark ochreous-fuscous, towards base with yellowish hairs ; a slender ochreous-whitish line immediately beneath costal edge on basal half ; spots light ochreous-yellowish, thinly scaled ; one in middle of disc, moderately large, subquadrate ; a second, smaller and suboval, rather near beyond this in middle ; three very small, adjacent, arranged in a transverse series beneath costa at $\frac{3}{4}$; two other similar spots obliquely beneath and beyond these ; a strong blackish streak from beyond first discal spot to $\frac{2}{5}$ of inner margin : cilia grey-whitish, barred with fuscous, basal third fuscous. Hindwings with hindmargin rounded ; dark fuscous, dorsal half with yellowish hairs ; a longitudinal-oblong ochreous-yellow blotch in middle of disc, surrounded by three or four small very cloudy yellowish spots touching it ; cilia white, basal third dark fuscous, on lower half also with a fuscous postmedian line. Forewings beneath rather dark fuscous, much paler along inner margin ; spots as above, but much paler ; a triangular orange blotch extending beneath costa from near base to first spot ; three additional yellowish spots beneath second discal spot, forming with it a transverse series ; a cloudy whitish patch along upper $\frac{2}{3}$ of hindmargin, narrowed to extremities, surrounded by a purplish suffusion. Hindwings beneath rather dark fuscous,

purplish-tinged, irregularly sprinkled with grey-whitish, dorsal half suffused with grey-whitish except near hindmargin; a twice dentate dark purple-fuscous mark towards inner margin before middle; eight indistinct moderate spots outlined with dark purple-fuscous; one before and above middle, one smaller in middle, remaining six forming a series (lower three adjacent) parallel to hindmargin at $\frac{2}{3}$; a series of obscure irregular dark purple-fuscous marks beyond this.

Blackheath (3,500 feet), New South Wales, in November; one specimen received from Mr. G. H. Raynor, who has others.

Tel. dactyliota, n. sp.

♂♀. 25-33 mm. Head, palpi, thorax, and abdomen fuscous-grey; palpi whitish beneath; hairs of abdomen yellowish-tinged. Antennæ black, slenderly annulated with white. Forewings with costa almost straight, hindmargin rounded, rather oblique; rather dark fuscous, in ♂ ochreous-shining; basal third with pale ochreous-yellowish hairs; spots pale whitish-yellowish, thinly scaled, in ♂ very small, in ♀ moderate; first in middle of disc, transverse; second between veins 3 and 4 at base, roundish, in ♀ with an additional larger spot adjacent to it beneath; three adjacent, arranged in a transverse series beneath costa at $\frac{3}{4}$; two others obliquely beneath and beyond them; in ♂ a strong blackish streak from lower angle of first spot to beyond middle of inner margin: cilia grey-whitish, basal half barred with grey. Hindwings with hindmargin rounded; ground-colour and cilia as in forewings; dorsal half clothed with pale ochreous-yellowish hairs; a pale ochreous-yellowish cloudy longitudinal-oval discal blotch, beneath and beyond which are several very obscure cloudy pale ochreous-yellowish spots, in ♂ tending to form a posterior transverse series. Forewings beneath dark fuscous; an obscure yellowish suffusion beneath costa on basal half; a triangular blotch suffused with whitish-grey, occupying apical fourth of wing; spots as above, but in ♂ with an additional spot beneath posterior

discal spot, as in ♀. Hindwings beneath light grey, mixed with fuscous towards costa; spots round, outlined with dark fuscous; one very small beneath costa at $\frac{1}{3}$, and a similar one in disc before middle; two dot-like, towards inner margin before middle; seven moderately large, placed in an acutely angulated post-median transverse series.

Port Lincoln, South Australia; Geraldton, West Australia; in October and November, common.

Tel. megalopis, n. sp.

♀. 34 mm. Head blackish, spotted with yellow-whitish. Palpi yellow-whitish, apex blackish. Antennae black, spotted with white beneath. Thorax and abdomen fuscous, somewhat mixed with yellow-whitish. Forewings with costa straight, hindmargin almost straight, rather oblique; dark fuscous, posterior half rather lighter; spots shining whitish-ochreous, thinly scaled; first moderate, irregular, in middle of disc; second moderate, subtriangular, between veins 3 and 4 at base, nearly approaching first; third large, trapezoidal, placed beneath first and second and only separated by a dark vein; a cloudy roundish more yellowish-tinged spot beneath anterior angle of this; a cloudy yellowish streak along middle third of inner margin; three small oblong sub-confluent spots placed in a transverse series beneath costa at $\frac{3}{4}$: cilia fuscous, terminal half grey-whitish. Hindwings with hindmargin rounded; dark fuscous; dorsal half with yellowish hairs; a moderately large subquadrate pale whitish-ochreous spot in disc beyond and somewhat above middle; a cloudy light ochreous-yellowish suffusion beneath anterior angle of this; cilia fuscous, terminal half grey-whitish. Forewings beneath with colour and markings as above, but lighter. Hindwings beneath rather light fuscous, towards inner margin somewhat suffused with whitish-ochreous; a small round white spot in middle of disc, surrounded by a thick black ring, outside which is a narrow pale whitish-ochreous suffusion which is dilated into a moderately large spot on posterior side.

Gayndah, Queensland; one specimen received from Mr. G. Masters, who has others.

EXOMETOECA, n. g.

Characters quite as in *Telesto*, except that vein 5 of the hindwings is present as a perfect vein (in *Telesto* represented only by an imperfect fold).

This genus is not closely allied to any Australian form; the peculiar position of the wings in repose is worthy of notice.

Ex. nycteris, n. sp.

♂. 27 mm. Head, palpi, thorax, and abdomen yellow-ochreous; palpi whitish on lower half. Antennae grey, club becoming crimson above. Forewings with costa almost straight, hindmargin hardly rounded, somewhat oblique; rather deep yellow-ochreous, towards costa posteriorly fuscous-tinged; costal edge fuscous; a small dark fuscous longitudinal spot at base near inner margin; a dark fuscous transverse linear mark in disc above middle; a cloudy fuscous dot beneath vein 2 before middle; two very small white spots, margined with dark fuscous, placed transversely in disc at $\frac{2}{3}$, upper between veins 3 and 4 at base; two dark fuscous dots placed transversely beneath lower of these; three very small white adjacent spots placed transversely beneath costa at $\frac{3}{4}$, margined posteriorly by a dark fuscous line somewhat produced beneath: cilia fuscous, mixed with ochreous-yellowish, becoming wholly yellow-ochreous towards anal angle. Hindwings with hindmargin rounded; yellow-ochreous, posteriorly fuscous-tinged, costal third wholly rather dark fuscous; a cloudy fuscous transverse mark in disc before middle; a curved transverse row of five very small round cloudy dark fuscous spots at $\frac{2}{3}$, extending from near costa to below middle; cilia fuscous, mixed with ochreous-yellowish, round apex darker fuscous. Forewings beneath fuscous, dorsal third pale whitish-ochreous; white spots as above; a whitish transverse discal mark, margined with dark fuscous; a

cloudy dark purplish-fuscous blotch at $\frac{3}{4}$, reaching from costa $\frac{2}{3}$ across wing, enveloping the white spots. Hindwings beneath rather light fuscous, towards anal angle somewhat suffused with pale whitish-ochreous; a small somewhat darker subcrescentic discal spot before middle; four very small darker fuscous spots arranged in a straight transverse series at $\frac{2}{3}$, one being above and three below middle.

Albany, West Australia; one specimen in December. In repose the insect sits on a twig, with the wings directed perpendicularly forward (as in a bat), projecting on the side of the undersurface of thorax so as to enclose the legs; whereas in ordinary species of the family they are usually directly reversed, carried erect over the back.